

ANSWERS AND ACTION TO THE TRAGEDY IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is an ongoing tragedy, and the American people deserve action to protect our gulf, and they deserve answers.

The American people deserve to know what happened on April 20, and Congress should investigate it thoroughly. The American people deserve to know why the administration was slow to respond, why the necessary equipment was not immediately on hand in the area, and why the President did not fully deploy Cabinet-level Federal officials until he spoke at the White House on April 28.

Lastly, the American people deserve answers for a pathway toward energy independence. There would be those in this country who would exploit this ongoing disaster to deny the American people more access to American oil, but the American people know better. The pathway toward energy independence is an environmentally responsible expansion of domestic drilling for oil and natural gas. It is more wind and solar and nuclear and more conservation.

Republicans are determined to give the American people the answers about what happened on April 20 and about the slow Federal response, and Republicans are determined to give the American people answers and a pathway toward energy independence that uses all of the above.

THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to live up to a challenge that has been put before us by the people of our country, by the people of Arizona, and by the people of my State. That is the challenge to replace our broken immigration system with one that works.

As I've traveled across my district, I haven't found a single constituent on the left or on the right who is happy with the state of immigration today in this country. There are over 10 million immigrants in this country who are working illegally, who are frequently undermining wages for working families, and who are taking away jobs from Americans.

We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform to ensure that this number doesn't grow to 15 or 20 million and so, in fact, we have no one who resides in this country illegally. We will require registration and will make sure that people follow the law. We will restore the rule of law to this Nation.

I am a proud cosponsor of the House comprehensive immigration reform bill, which will accomplish that. I call upon my colleagues in the Senate to introduce a bill based on the 25-page outline that they released last week, which would ensure, once and for all, that we will hear the voice of the American people come together to solve our immigration problem.

SUPPORTING A LOCAL JOBS BILL

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, right now, our unemployment rate in the United States hovers around 10 percent. It's a little bit lower than that, but when you think about all of the people who are unemployed in some sectors, it is twice that. In some parts of our country, it is much more than that.

The fact is that we need a jobs bill, a real jobs bill that will put Americans to work. I propose that we support a local jobs bill that will help provide not only jobs for working Americans but will also provide vitally needed services to our cities. All over America, we have districts that are looking at laying off teachers and that are looking at laying off firefighters, police officers, and public works officials. We need these vital services to keep our cities moving properly.

Local officials around this country know that the Federal Government should be responding to these difficult shortfalls and cuts that are resulting in service cuts all over this Nation. We have work that needs to be done, and we have people who are ready to do it. It is time for Congress to step forward with a real local jobs bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Pursuant to Executive Order 12131, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the President's Export Council:

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ, California;
Mr. WU, Oregon;
Mr. SCHAUER, Michigan.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the House Judiciary Committee, effective May 5, 2010. It was an honor to serve you and Chairman Conyers on this prestigious committee.

I look forward to continuing to serve on the Appropriations Committee and the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel in the 111th Congress.

Sincerely,
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM ACT OF 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5160) to extend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to provide customs support services to Haiti, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5160

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Haiti Economic Lift Program Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 12, 2010, Haiti was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, the worst earthquake to affect Haiti in recorded history. Aftershocks from the earthquake, measuring up to 6.0 on the Richter scale, continued for days afterwards.

(2) The earthquake has devastated Haiti's infrastructure, including homes, offices, factories, roads, ports, communications, and other facilities. The loss of life attributable to the earthquake was massive.

(3) Even before the earthquake, Haiti was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, ranking 149 out of 182 countries according to the United Nation's Human Development Index.

(4) In recent years, however, the Government and people of Haiti had taken important steps forward to promote economic growth and development, including making strides towards establishing a competitive apparel sector.

(5) United States trade preference programs, including the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (as amended by the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2006, and the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008), which extend duty-free tariff treatment to certain apparel produced in Haiti, have made an important contribution to Haiti's economic development efforts.

(6) However, the Haitian apparel sector has been hard hit by the January 12, 2010, earthquake. A number of apparel factories based